

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 20, 2004 has been received and reviewed by the applicant. Claims 1-16 are in the application. Claims 1-16 stand rejected. Claims 1-16 are canceled, and new claims 17 and 18 are added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

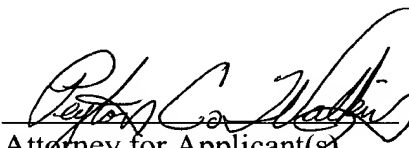
Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shishido. In response, claims 1-16 are canceled and claims 17 and 18 are added. It is pointed out that the claimed invention includes "transforming, for each color channel, the channel-independent density values using the corresponding estimated density vs. exposure relationship to produce image-bearing signals that include the relative exposure values of the photographic medium." In other words, the density values are transformed back to exposure values. In contrast, Shishido discloses correcting density values based on estimated D LogE curves. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted Shishido does not teach or suggest the claimed invention as amended.

The title has been amended to more clearly reflect the claims.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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